

Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the above-identified patent application:

Listing of Claims

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for relieving discomfort caused by swollen tissue ailments comprising:

a strip of material having first and second ends, wherein:

said strip of material is substantially planar,

said strip of material is crescent shaped,

said strip of material includes a length and a width, wherein the length is at least twice as long as the width,

said strip of material having one side that includes an adhesive applied at least to said first and second ends, and

said strip and said adhesive are operable to be applied to a person's body and to separate said swollen tissue from non-swollen tissue when applied.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

a second strip of material having third and fourth ends, wherein said second strip of material is substantially planar, is crescent shaped, and includes a length and a width, wherein the length is at least twice as long as the width; and

said second strip of material having a side that includes said adhesive applied at least to said third and fourth ends, said second strip and said adhesive, when applied to said person's body, acting to separate said swollen tissue from said non-swollen tissue.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said adhesive is absent from a portion of said second strip of material between said third and fourth ends.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said adhesive is absent from a portion of said strip of material between said first and second ends.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 13, ~~wherein said strip of material and said second strip of material are each pre-formed pieces of material configured further comprising:~~

a protective barrier covering at least said adhesive such that, when said protective barrier is removed and said strip of material is applied to [[a]] said person's body, they separate the said strip of material separates said person's buttocks to relieve discomfort cause by hemorrhoids.

22-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said ~~operable to be applied to said person's body~~ length comprises a particular size such that ~~[[:]]~~ said first and second ends are ~~operable separated by a distance sufficient for said first and second ends~~ to be respectively applied to said person's buttock and hip simultaneously, wherein said buttock and said hip are on the same side of said person's body.

28. (Withdrawn) A method of relieving discomfort caused by swollen tissue ailments comprising:

applying a crescent shaped strip of material, having a first end and a second end, to a person's body, wherein said applying comprises:

adhering said first end to a first portion of said person's body,

adhering said second end to a second portion of said person's body, and

causing swollen tissue of said person's body to be separated from non-swollen tissue of said person's body.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein:
said first portion of said person's body is a buttock;
said first portion of said person's body is a hip; and
said buttock and said hip are on the same side of said person's body.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 28 further comprising:
applying a second crescent shaped strip of material, having a third end and a fourth end, to said person's body, wherein said applying comprises:

adhering said third end to a third portion of said person's body; and
adhering said fourth end to a fourth portion of said person's body, and

wherein:

said crescent shaped strip of material and said second crescent shaped strip of material and said second crescent shaped strip of material work together to cause said swollen tissue to be separated from said non-swollen tissue.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein:
said third portion of said person's body is a buttock;
said fourth portion of said person's body is a hip; and
said buttock and said hip are on the same side of said person's body.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
relieving the discomfort cause by hemorrhoids.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for relieving discomfort caused by swollen tissue ailments, the apparatus comprising:

a strip of material that is substantially planar and is crescent shaped, the strip of material comprising:

a first end;
a second end;
a width;
a length, wherein the length is at least twice as long as the width;
an adhesive applied to ~~one~~ a first side of the strip of material; and
a tab, wherein the tab is located on at least one of the first end and the

second end; and

wherein the strip is operable to:

be applied to a person's body; and

separate swollen tissue from non-swollen tissue when applied.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the adhesive is absent from a portion of the first side of the strip of material between the first end and the second end.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the adhesive is applied to the entirety of the first side of the strip of material.

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the length comprises a particular size such that the first end and the second end are ~~operable~~ separated by a distance sufficient for the first end and the second end to:

be applied, respectively, to the person's buttock and to the person's hip at the same time, wherein the buttock and the hip are on the same side of the person's body; and
separate the swollen tissue from non-swollen tissue when applied.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the strip of material further ~~comprising~~ comprises:

one or more rubber separation knobs, wherein the one or more rubber separation knobs are located on at least one of the first end and the second end.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:
a second strip of material that is substantially planar and is crescent shaped,
wherein the second strip of material comprises:
an adhesive applied to one side of the second strip; and
a tab, wherein the tab is located on at least one of the ends of the second
strip.

40. (New) An apparatus for relieving discomfort caused by swollen tissue resulting
from hemorrhoids, the apparatus comprising:
a first strip comprising:
a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein each surface is flat such that
the first strip is substantially contained within a single plane;
two length-wise edges, wherein each length-wise edge is curved such that
the shape of the strip is crescent-shaped in form;
two width-wise edges, wherein each length-wise edge is at least 2 times as
long as each width-wise edge; and
an adhesive applied to at least a portion of the bottom surface, wherein the
adhesive is operable to couple the first strip to a person's body in a manner that separates the
swollen tissue from non-swollen tissue.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, length-wise edge is at least 3 times as long as
each width-wise edge.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:
at least one tab extending from an intersection of a length-wise edge and a width-
wise edge, wherein the at least one tab is contained within the single plane.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the adhesive is absent from a middle
portion of the bottom surface.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the bottom surface comprises:
two end portions, wherein each end portion comprises a different width-wise
edge, and wherein the adhesive is only applied to the two end portions.